



DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

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Statement of
LUIS P. SALAVERIA
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Thursday, February 2, 2017
8:30a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

in consideration of
HB 1543
RELATING TO ENERGY TRAINING.

Chair Lee, Vice Chair Lowen, and Members of the Committee.

The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) opposes HB1543 which requires DBEDT to establish an optional energy training course for state and county employees responsible for permitting, inspecting, licensing, and approving construction projects that contain renewable energy systems and related technology.

DBEDT is not equipped with the appropriate human and financial resources to develop the curriculum required by this measure. However, DBEDT is open to providing feedback to the appropriate agencies on energy matters that would aid them in developing energy related training. It is our opinion that such assistance from DBEDT would not require legislative action.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on HB 1543.



February 1, 2017

Representative Chris Lee Chair, Representative Nicole Lowen Vice Chair, and Committee Members of the House Committee on Energy & Environment Protection

RE: ICC Supports Passage of HB 1543

Dear Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Members:

The International Code Council (ICC) is a 58,000 member, non-profit public benefit corporation dedicated to helping the building safety community and construction industry provide safe, sustainable, energy-efficient and affordable construction through the development of codes and standards used in the design, building and compliance process by state and local governments including the State of Hawaii and its Counties.

The Hawaii State Building Code Council (SBCC) has recently passed approval of the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) which is up for final adoption by the state and the Hawaiian Counties. The 2015 IECC is an up-to-date energy efficiency code which has been reviewed and modified by the Hawaii State Building Code Council in partnership with the Hawaii State Energy Office in order to meet the unique energy efficiency needs of Hawaii and the energy policy goals as set by the Hawaii Legislature. Clearly the goal is to have 100% renewable energy sources by 2031.

HB 1543 charges the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, the (Hawaii State Energy Office) with the task to provide training courses to state and county officials involved with permitting and inspecting and approval of energy systems technologies and approve compliance with adopted state and local energy efficiency code requirements.

The ICC endorses the training objectives in the bill. In order for the state to meet its energy policy goals, training is needed for state and local code officials and approving authorities so they are most familiar with the newest energy system technologies and energy efficiency code provisions. The ICC encourages the legislature to identify a funding source so the charge given to the Hawaii State Energy Office to provide training can be realized.

ICC strongly supports and urges passage of HB 1543 because an adequately funded training effort will help to accomplish the goals of the legislature.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kraig Stevenson", is written over a horizontal line.

Kraig Stevenson, CBO
ICC Government Relations
kstevenson@iccsafe.org
562-201-9209



Before the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
Thursday, February 2, 2017, 8:30 a.m., Room 325
HB 1543: Relating to Energy Training

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Lowen, and members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Distributed Energy Resources Council of Hawaii (“DER Council”), I would like to testify in strong support for HB 1543 which requires DBEDT to establish an optional training course for state and county employees responsible for permitting, inspecting, licensing and approving construction projects that contain renewable energy systems and related technology.

The DER Council is a nonprofit trade organization formed to assist with the development of distributed energy resources and smart grid technologies which will support an affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy supply for Hawaii.

In the last few years, the renewable energy industry has been undergoing a rapid technological evolution. Both the components of renewable energy installations and the configurations of the installations have continued to evolve, and inspectors and plan checkers need to be informed and up to date to do their jobs. They are expected to understand a very wide variety of system and component variables ranging from smart inverters, AC and DC configurations, various battery chemistries, fire safety and enforcement protocol, and the many battery management systems that ensure safe and efficient operation of systems that include battery energy storage, just to name a few.

Unfortunately, there is no formal or ongoing means in place by which inspectors and plan checkers who work for the state and county can learn about the ongoing changes in the renewable energy industry. This means that state and county employees have different levels of understanding about renewable energy installations, resulting at times in the inconsistent application of the rules and an inefficient process where plans and inspections can be greatly delayed if the installation has unfamiliar technology

The state and county employees who work to ensure that renewable energy installations are safe and properly designed and installed should be given the option of trainings in renewable energy so that they can get the information that they need. We urge this committee to support HB 1543.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify

Leslie Cole-Brooks
Executive Director
Distributed Energy Resources Council of Hawaii



Hawaii Solar Energy Association

Serving Hawaii Since 1977

**TESTIMONY OF THE HAWAII SOLAR ENERGY ASSOCIATION
IN REGARD TO HB 805, RELATING TO THE PUBLIC UTILITIES
COMMISSION
BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
ON
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND, 2017**

Chair Lee, Vice-Chair Lowen, and members of the committee, my name is Hajime Alabanza and I represent the Hawaii Solar Energy Association, Inc. (HSEA)

HSEA **supports** HB 1543. This measure seeks to provide a program managed and conducted by DBEDT to educate employees responsible for the permitting and approving of energy systems and related technology.

Currently the state of Hawai'i is in the midst of an energy revolution. We are on the cutting edge of energy policy and technology and have one of the most ambitious and aggressive renewable energy goals ever codified into law. Additionally, the Hawaii Solar Energy Association and its members have collectively installed thousands of solar PV and solar hot water systems across all the major neighbor islands. We have proven ourselves more than capable of meeting the goals set forth in the Hawaii Revised statutes §269-92. We have also

However, this aggressive energy policy also comes with a cost. Being on the cutting edge of the energy economy means that you are often sailing into uncharted waters. In these instances, the necessary services provided by the local municipalities that deal with the permitting, licensing, and approving of the types of projects that move the state forward on its renewable energy goals will most certainly need education and instruction on the various energy technologies that will be installed.

HB 1543 allows DBEDT to provide an essential service to these various agencies. This allows both permitting agencies and industries to absolve themselves from attempting to learn from each other on an informal and ad hoc basis. It also provides an official forum for these agencies and industries to collaborate moving forward.

We strongly urge the committee to pass SB 660.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

February 2, 2016
(Testimony is 1 page long)

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1543

Chair Lee and Members of the Committee:

The Alliance for Solar Choice (TASC) appreciates the opportunity to comment on HB 1543, requiring DBEDT to put on an energy training course for state and county officials. With deference to DBEDT's capacity to fulfill the intent of this measure, TASC respectfully supports this measure and offers its assistance in putting together future classes.

Hawaii is in the midst of a technology disruption in how electricity is generated and consumed. Governmental officials, especially those who permit and inspect these systems, should have a reasonable opportunity to stay abreast of these new technologies.

TASC members recently conducted energy storage training courses for City and County of Honolulu officials. TASC members would be willing to assist DBEDT in offering similar courses in the future, particularly on the neighbor islands.

Mahalo for considering these comments.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 3:07 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: tyc-brian@yahata.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1543 on Feb 2, 2017 08:30AM

HB1543

Submitted on: 1/31/2017

Testimony for EEP on Feb 2, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Yahata	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: I have not had the a chance to provide support written testimony and would like the time to speak.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 6:32 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1543 on Feb 2, 2017 08:30AM*

HB1543

Submitted on: 1/30/2017

Testimony for EEP on Feb 2, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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